

Attached is the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Wrap-up Report distributed at the City Council Workshop on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Regular Session:

- 6,927 bills filed
- 1,073 bills passed
- Governor vetoed 20 bills

## **2021 Legislative Session – What’s Next?**

**July 8th** – First day of Special Session called by Governor Abbott.

Agenda items, set by the Governor, will be announced as the date of the special session draws near. The governor’s press release can be found [here](#). However, immediately following the close of the Regular Session, Governor Abbott said he planned to ask state lawmakers to work on two elections and bail bills that died late in the session. Most recently, Governor Abbott said the agenda will also include further restricting the teaching of critical race theory in Texas public schools, which refers to an academic discipline that explores the role racism plays in institutions and structures of governance.

## **Governor Abbott Urges County Judges Across Texas To Complete Border Budget Forecast Form**

Governor Greg Abbott today urged County Judges across Texas to submit their 2-year projected budget for expenses related to the ongoing border crisis. These projections, submitted through the online [Border Budget Forecast Form](#), will be used by the State of Texas to request additional border security funding from the Legislature during the upcoming Special Session.

## **TWIA Reminder: Starting 9/1, Increased Limit of Liability Adjustments Through ABC Endorsement**

The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association released an Agent Bulletin announcing this year’s automatic adjustments associated with the Adjusted Building Cost (ABC) endorsement ([TWIA-220](#)) will be greater than in the recent past. From 2018-2020, annual automatic adjustments to the dwelling limit of liability remained below 1%; this year, they will be around 2% (varying by location). The ABC endorsement, commonly referred to as the “inflation guard” endorsement, is a standard insurance industry practice. It is designed to help ensure the limit of liability amount keeps pace with increases to local building costs and is automatically included with all TWIA policies. It does not guarantee the dwelling is adequately insured for its full replacement cost. This year’s increase will affect all residential renewal policies with an effective date on or after September 1, 2021. The automatic adjustments to the limit of liability (listed under Coverage A) will be reflected in the renewal packets sent to policyholders. Those who wish to reinstate their previous year’s limit of liability may do so by their agent. As a reminder, lowering the limit of liability may affect eligibility for replacement cost coverage. the information in the TWIA bulletin is available on the TWIA website[here](#).

## **Washington Update**

### **Latest ARPA Guidance Update**

The U.S. Treasury confirmed on a national conference call that municipalities will be allowed to earn as much interest as they possibly can on the millions of dollars of American Rescue Plan

Act (ARPA) funds arriving in their bank accounts. What is even better news for our public entities is the Treasury will be putting **no restrictions** on how municipalities decide to use accrued interest income on their ARPA funds. Treasury updated its website to include the [Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities](#) page, which also includes the [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#). As a reminder, Treasury is seeking comment on the ARPA [Interim Final Rule](#) through July 16.

### **President Endorses Senate Bipartisan Infrastructure Agreement**

The Biden Administration and a bipartisan group of senators have come to an agreement on the framework for a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package, of which would include \$579 billion in new spending. The broad elements of the package:

\$312 billion for Transportation

\$55 billion for Water Infrastructure

\$65 billion for Broadband Infrastructure

\$20 billion for Infrastructure Financing

The details of exactly how the money will be spent will not be known until the legislation is drafted. However, the attached document provides a summary of the framework agreement. The President has indicated he will sign the bill only with assurance key components from the rest of his economic package (i.e. child care and health care) will advance through the reconciliation process, a budget procedural method that only requires a majority vote for passage in the Senate.

### **Senate Committee Advances Bipartisan Surface Transportation Bill**

Last week, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation [voted](#) 25-3 to advance [S. 2016](#), the *Surface Transportation Investment Act*. The [bill](#) authorizes \$78 billion over five years to address key infrastructure and safety priorities including: \$36 billion for rail; \$27.8 billion for multimodal grant programs; \$13 billion for safety programs; and \$1 billion for research. Other resources released include a [summary](#) and [section-by-section](#). Three committees share responsibility for drafting their sections of the reauthorization bill, while the Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over funding the legislation. The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee with jurisdiction over federal transit programs has yet to act on their portion of the reauthorization legislation. The current surface transportation reauthorization expires on September 30.

Meanwhile, the House intends to vote next week on the newest version of the INVEST in America Act, a now \$715 billion five-year surface transportation authorization bill. The INVEST Act includes language that addresses the Galveston Gap issue with our small urbanized area status until 2020 decennial census implemented in FTA apportionments and provides future protection for small urbanized areas impacted by disaster. The Senate has their own version of a surface transportation bill and water infrastructure bills that leaders in both chambers intend to merge into one final bill they hope can pass Congress later this year.

### **NTIA Releases Broadband Access Map**

Last week, the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) [released](#) a new publicly available digital map that displays key indicators of broadband needs across the country. The public "[Indicators of Broadband Need](#)" tool puts on one map, for the first time, data from both public and private sources. The dataset also shows where high-poverty communities are located and how that relates to internet usage patterns, as

well as to a lack of computers and related equipment. Additional information on public data and mapping can be found [here](#).